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Keating Defended On Cuba Position

I READ with considerable surprise the charges made recently by a visiting congressman against Sen. Ken Keating of Rochester. Nothing could be more absurd than to try to identify Sen. Keating with isolationist forces who have opposed the United Nations.

The senator has been an active supporter of the Rochester Association for the United Nations for several

decades. In Washington and here he has consistently backed United Nations' efforts within the framework of United States' policy, to work for improved world conditions.

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It is particularly startling that Rep. Sam Stratton should be making such charges. At the recent convention of the New York weekly press in Syracuse, Stratton was asked what this country would do if censured by the United Nations for reconnaissance flights over Cuba. Newsmen present report that he replied, "We wouldn't do anything. The U.N. does not have the guns."

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SEN. KEATING has consistently disassociated himself from any such extremist positions and made no charges that he has not himself checked through government sources. In recent months, he was one of the first to point out the threat of terrorism and subversion exported from Cuba. This charge was originally denied by Defense Secretary McNamara on nationwide television but later admitted and documented by CIA Director McCone in hearings before congressional committees.

Ken Keating's estimates of Soviet strength and intentions have, as far as I can see, been closer to the truth than many official handouts.

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In my judgment, the senator is performing an important service in offering valid facts and interpretations on the Cuban situation. Full discussion and understanding of the issues are an important part of the representative process of government.

Rather than making Sen. Keating the target of unwarranted attacks, I think all of us should commend him for his nonpartisan statesmanship in alerting the country to the Communist menace which exists in Cuba today.

FRANK HORTON
Representative to Congress
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